

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 DOTE-00

RSR-01 /077 W

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R 021426Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4463

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN BF

SUBJ: CIVAIR: BAHAMASAIR

REF: STATE 147984

1. RE PARA 4 OF REFTEL, EMBASSY DOES NOT REPEAT NOT BELIEVE IT WAS A FISHING EXPEDITION. PRIOR TO DISCUSSION WITH SOURCE MENTIONED REFTEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF BAHAMASAIR HAD APPROACHED EMBOFF TO ASSURE US THAT ONLY OIA AND GCOB WERE OWNERS OF BAHAMASAIR. AT THE TIME THE NEED FOR HIS APPROACH PUZZLED US. EMBASSY'S SOURCE STATES THAT BAHAMASAIR'S WASHINGTON ATTORNEY, MR. JOHN SIMPSON OF LAW FIRM OF KOTEN AND BURT, HAD REPORTED THAT QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP AND POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF PERSONS MENTIONED IN NASSAU 984 HAD HELD UP THE JUNE 5 APPLICATION BY OUT ISLAND AIRWAYS FOR PERMISSION TO USE NAME "BAHAMASAIR".

2. THE FINALIZING OF THE TRANSFER OF OIA'S ASSETS TO BAHAMASAIR HAS NOT YET BEEN COMPLETED BUT SHOULD BE VERY SHORTLY. IN THE MEANTIME, OIA CONTINUES TO FUNCTION. HOWEVER, FOR LOCAL POLITICAL REASONS IT WAS NECESSARY TO GIVE EVERYONE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NATIONAL FLAG CARRIER WAS IN FULL SCALE OPERATION PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE. THUS ALL FLIGHTS ARE LISTED

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AS BAHAMASAIR FLIGHTS AND LOCAL PUBLICITY NO LONGER MENTIONS

OIA. THUS THE US/NASSAU SERVICE IS STILL BEING PROVIDED BY OIA. THE FLIGHT SCHEDULES SHOW SEVEN DAILY FLIGHTS FROM NASSAU TO MIAMI AT 0800, 1000, 1030, 1045, 1515, 1545 AND 2000, AND SIX RETURN FLIGHTS AT 0930, 1145, 1310, 1645, 1820 AND 2130. THE SCHEDULE SHOWS THE 1045 FLIGHT TO MIAMI VIA SAN ANDROS; HOWEVER, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS NO MIAMI/SAN ANDROS SERVICE PRESENTLY EXISTS. THERE ARE TWO DAILY FLIGHTS FROM FREEPORT TO MIAMI AT 1130 AND 1645 AND RETURN FLIGHTS AT 1310 AND 1820.

3. BAHAMASAIR (HOLDINGS) LTD. HAS BEEN INCORPORATED. IT IS THE FULL LEGAL NAME OF BAHAMASAIR IN THE SAME WAY AS PAN AMERICAN WORLD AIRWAYS INC. IS THE FULL NAME OF PANAM. THE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF BAHAMASAIR WHO SUPPLIED MOST OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS CABLE WOULD NOT DISCUSS THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OIA AND BAHAMASAIR.

4. IT IS BAHAMASAIR'S UNDERSTANDING THAT CAB MUST FIRST ACKNOWLEDGE BRITISH AND GCOB NOTES DESIGNATING BAHAMASAIR FOR SERVICES TO U.S. (PARA 1 OF REFTTEL) BEFORE AN APPLICATION CAN BE MADE TO TRANSFER THE FOREIGN AIR CARRIER PERMIT. IS THIS CORRECT?
SPEAR

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